

Please amend the following claims as shown below:

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1. (Twice Amended) A digital imaging system [for] capable of correlating processing data and [information] image data, said digital imaging system comprising:

a capturing device for [gathering] receiving said [information] image data and said processing data

a manager device coupled to said capturing device for building a data cell containing said processing data and for linking said data cell to said [information] image data, wherein said processing data includes settings of said capturing device at image capture time; and

a processing device coupled to said capturing device for processing said [information] image data using [specified elements] said processing data within said data cell.

2. (Once amended) The digital imaging system of Claim 1 wherein said manager device [deletes] is operable for deleting a selected portion of said processing data from said data cell after said processing device has finished processing said [information] image data.

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⁴/₃ 3. (Once amended) The digital imaging system of Claim 1 wherein said manager device [makes] is operable for making a copy of said data cell and [appends] for appending said copy of said data cell to said [information] image data.

⁵/₄ 4. (Once amended) The digital imaging system of Claim ^y/₃ wherein said manager device [rebuilds] is operable for rebuilding said data cell after a

disruptive event using said copy of said data cell appended to said [information] image data.

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5 (Once amended) The digital imaging system of Claim 2 wherein said processing device [stores] is operable for storing said [information] image data into a memory device after [deleting] said manager device has deleted said selected portion of said processing data from said data cell.

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C2
6. (Twice Amended) A method for correlating processing data and [information] image data in a digital imaging system, said method comprising the steps of:

a) [gathering] receiving said [information] image data and said processing data using a capturing device;

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b) building a data cell with a manager device, wherein said data cell [containing] contains said processing data, and said processing data includes settings of said capturing device at image capture time;

c) linking said data cell to said [information] image data; and

d) processing said [information] image data using [specified elements] said processing data within said data cell.

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7. (Once amended) The method of Claim 6 further comprising the step e) of deleting a selected portion of said processing data from said data cell after said step d) [of processing said information is finished].

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10.
8 (Once amended) The method of Claim ~~6~~ further comprising the steps of:

making a copy of said data cell; and

appending said copy of said data cell to said [information] image data.

¹¹ 9. (Once amended) The method of Claim ¹⁰ 8 further comprising the step of rebuilding said data cell after a disruptive event using said copy of said data cell appended to said [information] image data.

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10. (Once amended) The method of Claim 7 further comprising the step of storing said [information] image data into a memory device after said step e) [of deleting said selected processing data from said data cell].

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C3

11. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for correlating processing data and [information] image data in a digital imaging system, wherein said program instructions, when executed by a computer system coupled to said digital imaging system, cause said digital imaging system to implement [by performing] the steps of:

a) [gathering] receiving said [information] image data and said processing data using a capturing device;

b) building a data cell with a manager device, wherein said data cell [containing] contains said processing data, and said processing data includes settings of said capturing device at image capture time;

c) linking said data cell to said [information] image data; and

d) processing said [information] image data using [specified elements] said processing data within said data cell.

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D6

12. (Once amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 [further comprising] wherein said program instructions, when executed, cause said digital imaging system to implement the step e) of deleting a selected

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portion of said processing data from said data cell after said step d) [of processing said information is finished].

16.
13. (Once amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 13 [further comprising] wherein said program instructions, when executed, cause said digital imaging system to implement the steps of:

making a copy of said data cell; and

appending said copy of said data cell to said [information] image data.

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17.
14. (Once amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 14 [further comprising] wherein said program instructions, when executed, cause said digital imaging system to implement the step of rebuilding said data cell after a disruptive event using said copy of said data cell appended to said [information] image data.

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15. (Once amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 12 [further comprising] wherein said program instructions, when executed, cause said digital imaging system to implement the step of storing said [information] image data into a memory device after said step e) [of deleting said selected processing data from said data cell].

Please add the following claims as shown below:

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37. (New) The digital imaging system of Claim 1 wherein said capturing device is capable of receiving a subsequent set of said image data and a subsequent set of said processing data while said processing device is processing a previous set of said image data using a previous set of said

processing data, said previous sets of data having been received earlier than said subsequent sets of data.

⁶38. (New) The digital imaging system of Claim 1 wherein said processing of said image data includes compressing said image data.

39. (New) The method of Claim 6 wherein said step d) comprises the step of processing a previous set of said image data using a previous set of said processing data, and said method further comprises the step of receiving a subsequent set of said image data and a subsequent set of said processing data while said step d) is being performed, said previous sets of data having been received earlier than said subsequent sets of data.

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40. (New) The method of Claim 6 wherein said step d) comprises the step of compressing said image data.

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41. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 wherein said step d) comprises the step of processing a previous set of said image data using a previous set of said processing data, and said program instructions, when executed, also cause said digital imaging system to implement the step of receiving a subsequent set of said image data and a subsequent set of said processing data while said step d) is being performed, said previous sets of data having been received earlier than said subsequent sets of data.

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42. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 wherein said step d) comprises the step of compressing said image data.